

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims read as follows:

- 1.-2. Canceled.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes spraying the supercritical fluid and therapeutic at the stent.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes exposing the stent to a bath of supercritical fluid and therapeutic.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic substantially dissolves in the supercritical fluid.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic is colloiddally suspended in the supercritical fluid.
- 7.-8. Canceled.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a coating of a stent comprising:
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;
providing a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;
causing the stent, precoated with the swellable carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid and therapeutic, thereby causing the swellable carrier coating to swell and to absorb therapeutic;
collecting the supercritical fluid after transferring the therapeutic from the supercritical fluid to the stent; and
removing residual therapeutic from the supercritical fluid after collecting the supercritical fluid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide and the therapeutic is paclitaxel.
11. Canceled.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a coating of a medical device comprising:
coating the medical device;
interfacing a therapeutic with a supercritical fluid; and
swelling the coating on the medical device with a supercritical fluid devoid of coating prior to exposing the coating on the coated medical device to the supercritical fluid that has been interfaced with the therapeutic.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein exposing the coating to the supercritical fluid includes spraying the supercritical fluid at the medical device.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein exposing the coating to the supercritical fluid includes flooding a coating chamber with the supercritical fluid after the therapeutic has been interfaced with the supercritical fluid.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein:
swelling the coating includes exposing the coating to a bath of supercritical fluid and wherein the supercritical fluid has not been previously interfaced with therapeutic prior to being exposed to the coating.
- 16-27. Canceled.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein supercritical fluid is sprayed through a nozzle.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising:

manipulating a nozzle to change the direction in which supercritical fluid is directed towards the stent.

30. Canceled.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising:
increasing the rate in which supercritical fluid enters the chamber containing the stent by applying a vacuum force to the chamber.

32. Canceled.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a coating of a stent comprising:
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;
swelling the carrier coating with a supercritical fluid devoid of ~~coating~~ therapeutic prior to providing a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;
causing the stent, ~~precoated with the swellable~~ with the swollen carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes placing the stent in a chamber and injecting the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic into the chamber.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein at least one supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the therapeutic is paclitaxel.